

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04848 120231Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DODE-00
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /075 W
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R 120213Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6213
INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC HONOLULU
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 04848

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, NZ
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES -
- AUGUST 1978

1. DESPITE A SMALL DROP IN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED
UNEMPLOYED, NEW ZEALAND'S TOTAL UNEMPLOYED CONTINUED
TO RISE DURING AUGUST. MONTH-END TOTALS RELEASED BY THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR LIST REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED AT 25,493
(DOWN FROM 26,307 IN JULY) AND PERSONS ON SPECIAL WORKS
SCHEMES AT 22,495 (19,931 IN JULY). TOTAL OF 47,958
UNEMPLOYED REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 2,320 ABOVE THE
JULY TOTAL AND 4.0 PERCENT OF THE 1.2 MILLION WORK FORCE.

2. HALF OF THE NATION'S TWENTY-TWO EMPLOYMENT DISTRICTS
RECORDED DECREASES IN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED.
UNFILLED VACANCIES FOR THE MONTH TOTALLED 928.

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3. THE SMALL AUGUST DECREASE IN THE REGISTERED UNEM-
PLOYED PROBABLY DOES NOT REPRESENT ANY DURABLE CHANGE
IN NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC DOLDRUMS. RATHER IT REFLECTS
THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN (AS ELECTIONS DRAW NEARER) THAT
AS MANY JOB SEEKERS AS POSSIBLE BE INCLUDED IN SPECIAL
WORKS SCHEMES. THE MINISTER OF LABOUR ACKNOWLEDGED
SEPTEMBER 9 THAT THE UNEMPLOYMENT PICTURE WOULD GET

WORSE BEFORE BECOMING BETTER. SEASONAL LAYOFFS ARE
ANTICIPATED IN SEVERAL INDUSTRIES IN THE NEXT FEW
MONTHS, AND THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL LEAVERS AT THE END OF
THE YEAR IS EXPECTED TO BE A RECORD HIGH.
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